

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUCAR 01186 271542Z

46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-03 NSC-07

SS-20 OMB-01 EB-11 NIC-01 SSC-01 DRC-01 /111 W

----- 106030

O R 271440Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8118

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1186

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RO

SUBJECT: ANALYSIS OF ROMANIAN LEADERSHIP RESHUFFLE

REF: BUCHAREST 1156

1. CEAUSESCU'S POWER ENHANCED: RESULT OF MARCH 25-26
PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE
FURTHER CONSOLIDATION OF THE POLITICAL POSITION OF CEAUSESCU.
HIS NEW OFFICE OF "PRESIDENT OF SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF
ROMANIA," IN ADDITION TO PRESENT TITLES OF PARTY GENERAL
SECRETARY AND COUNCIL OF STATE PRESIDENT, IS EVIDENTLY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUCAR 01186 271542Z

DESIGNED TO ENHANCE HIS STATUS IN DEALING WITH FOREIGN

LEADERS AND TO REINFORCE THE IDENTITY OF ROMANIA AND CEAUSESCU AS ONE. MOREOVER, COUNCIL OF STATE, THOUGH CONTINUING TO EXIST, WILL HAVE ALL ITS FUNCTIONS TAKEN OVER BY PRESIDENCY. DRASTICALLY RESTRUCTURING THE TOP PARTY LEADERSHIP BODY, HE HAS REPLACED A FORMER NINE-MEMBER PERMANENT PRESIDUM THAT INCLUDED A NUMBER OF DISTINCT, INDEPENDENT-THINKING PERSONALITIES WITH A SOMEWHAT LARGER NEW "PERMANENT BUREAU" MORE MALLEABLE TO HIS WISHES. THE PLENUM IS PROBABLY ONLY THE BEGINNING OF A PROCESS THAT WILL CONTINUE ON BOTH PARTY AND GOVERNMENT LEVELS BETWEEN NOW AND ELEVENTH PARTY CONGRESS IN LATE 1974.

2. MODERATE PRIME MINISTER RETIRES: MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IS RESIGNATION OF RESPECTED PARTY ELDER ION GHEORGHE MAURER AS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' CHAIRMAN. ALTHOUGH VALID REASONS OF HEALTH AND AGE ARE CITED, MAURER, A WESTERNIZED MODERATE, HAS NOT HESITATED TO DIFFER WITH CEAUSESCU, FOR EXAMPLE OVER SUCH DOMESTIC ISSUES AS PACE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HIS REPLACEMENT, MANEA MANESCU, AN ECONOMIC OPTIMIST, HAS BEEN A FAITHFUL CEAUSESCU FOLLOWER AND TECHNOCRAT WHO LACKS MAURER'S FLAIR. WHILE MAURER STEPPED DOWN WITH GOOD GRACE, HIS BRIEF PARTING PLENUM REMARKS HAD BITTERSWEET TINGE.

3. NEW POLITBURO PACKED: OF NINE ORIGINAL PRESIDUM MEMBERS, TWO (MAURER AND TROFIN) ARE DEFINITELY OUT, WHILE POSITIONS OF TWO OTHERS WILL NOT BECOME CLEAR AT LEAST UNTIL GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION LATER THIS WEEK. TROFIN WHOM WE HAVE BELIEVED FOR SEVERAL YEARS TO HAVE BEEN OPPOSED TO CEAUSESCU ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES, IS DESTINED FOR APPARENT OBSCURITY IN "OTHER PARTY WORK." MEMBERSHIP IN NEW "BUREAU" IS BASED ON POSITIONS, INCLUDING: THREE POSTS NOW HELD BY CEAUSESCU, ALL SEVEN OTHER PARTY SECRETARIES (OF WHICH ALL BUT PANA AND VERDET WILL BE NEW TO TOPMOST BODY), PRIME MINISTER MANESCU, YET-TO-BE NAMED FIRST VICE PRESIDENT AND ONE OR TWO OTHER VICE PRESIDENTS OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (POSSIBLY BUT NOT NECESSARILY TO INCLUDE TWO MORE SENIOR INDEPENDENT HOLDOVER FIGURES NICULESCU-MIZIL AND RADULESCU), AND ONE COUNCIL OF STATE VICE-PRESIDENT (PRESUMABLY BODNARAS), EMIL DRAGANESCU (AS NEW PLANNING COMMITTEE HEAD) AND

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BUCHAR 01186 271542Z

MIHAI DALEA (TRADE UNION CHIEF). THE SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF THE BUREAU MAKE IT APPEAR LIKELY TO HANDLE AT LEAST SOME MATTERS FORMERLY HANDLED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UNTOUCHED: DESPITE OTHER ANOMALIES PRESUMABLY AWAITING FURTHER ACTION, THE PLENUM DID NOT TAMPER WITH THE PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, IN SPITE OF FACT IT CONTAINS MANY MEMBERS WHO HAVE LOST ALL CLAIM TO MEMBERSHIP

DUE TO PREVIOUS REASSIGNMENT TO LESSER STATE POSITIONS. CEAUSESCU MAY HAVE DESIRED TO INSTALL HIS NEW TOP LEADERSHIP TEAM SO THAT FINALIZATION OF ELEVENTH PARTY CONGRESS PLANS COULD PROCEED, INCLUDING NEXT FIVE YEAR PLAN AND PARTY PROGRAM, BEFORE MOVING TO TIDY UP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. ALSO, WE EXPECT THAT PARTY SECRETARIAT ITSELF COULD FACE FURTHER REORGANIZATION IN COMING MONTHS. ROMANIAN OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD EMBOFFS THAT "FOR TIME BEING" CONSTANTINESCU WILL REMAIN AS A PARTY SECRETARY, WITH SOME IMPLICATION THAT MORE CHANGE IS PLANNED. FINALLY, WE NOTE IN PARTICULAR THAT THE CONTESTED AREA OF CULTURE AND IDEOLOGY, WHERE LIBERAL-CONSERVATIVE JOCKEYING HAS COMBINED WITH FRICTION BETWEEN PARTY SECRETARIES BURTICA AND POPESCU REMAINS UNRESOLVED.

5. MOVES OF PRO-CEAUSESCU FIGURES: A NEW COUNCIL OF MINISTERS VICE PRESIDENT, GHEORGHE OPREA, IS A PLIABLE, TECHNOCRAT CLOSE TO CEAUSESCU; TRAIAN DUDAS, NEW MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION, WAS NOT ONLY ONE OF FEW BUT ONE OF FIRST COUNTY FIRST SECRETARIES TO ENDORSE CEAUSESCU'S 1972 CALL FOR FULFILLMENT OF FIVE-YEAR PLAN IN FOUR AND ONE HALF YEARS. MIRON CONSTANTINESCU, 57, MORE RECENTLY A CEAUSESCU PROTEGE AFTER A MORE INDEPENDENT PAST, MOVES TO REPLACE 73-YEAR-OLD STEFAN VOITEC AS GNA PRESIDENT, ROMANIA'S CHIEF PARLIAMENTARIAN, WHO LAPSES TO A LESSER SINECURE AS A COUNCIL OF STATE VICE-PRESIDENT.

6. FURTHER COMMENTS WILL FOLLOW AS WE ARE ABLE TO OBTAIN FURTHER INSIGHTS.
BARNES

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL LEADERS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BUCHAR01186
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740066-0145
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740312/aaaaakyj.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BUCHAREST 1156
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 APR 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <11 JUN 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANALYSIS OF ROMANIAN LEADERSHIP RESHUFFLE
TAGS: PINT, RO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005